Applicants request a three month extension of time to and include April 10, 2002.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 28, line 22 and ending at line 11, page 29 with the following:

--In some embodiments, the cipher probes are at least 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 bases in length. In one probe selection method, all possible probes of given length is first generated. The probe sequences are compared with biological sequences in public and private databases. Probes that are complementary to known biological sequences are eliminated from the candidate probe pool. The remaining probes are selected for their hybridization characteristics. The selected cipher probes have similar hybridization characteristics and minimal homology to biological sequences. The hybridization characteristics may be selected based upon certain rules and/or based upon predicted hybridzation behavior of the probes. Methods for selecting optimal probes for gene expression are disclosed in for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,800,992, and 6,040,138, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/252,617, and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/252,617, all incorporated here by reference for all purposes.--

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121(b)(1)(iii), Attachment A contains marked up version of the replacement paragraph illustrating the newly introduced changes in the specification.

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